

Nesiarchus nasutus.

Nesiarchus nasutus, Johnson, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1862, p. 173, pl. 22.

Prometheus paradoxus, Capello, Journ. Sc. Acad. Lisb., vol. iii. p. 260, pl. iv. fig. 5; and vol. vi. p. 154.

This is the only species of the genus; it is a large fish, known from a few specimens only which have been found in the sea off Madeira and the Portuguese coast. It is without doubt a deep-sea fish, which comes to the surface only by accident.

Lepidopus, Gouan.

Body much elongate, band-like, scaleless; head long and pointed; cleft of the mouth wide, the jaws being armed with strong lanceolate teeth in a single series; a series of small teeth on the palatine bones. Eyes large. The whole of the back is occupied by a single dorsal fin; anal spines numerous, but the majority are rudimentary or may disappear entirely; no postanal spine; caudal fin small. Ventral fins absent or rudimentary. Eight branchiostegals; air-bladder present. Pyloric appendages rather numerous.

Lepidopus caudatus (Euphrasen).

The Scabbard-fish or Frost-fish of New Zealand is probably an inhabitant of moderate depths, although no positive evidence has been forthcoming as to its vertical distribution. It is rather common in the Mediterranean and warmer parts of the Atlantic, at the Cape of Good Hope, in the seas around Tasmania and New Zealand, and on the coast of California. Lendenfeld has observed that the Frost-fish periodically appears on the coast of New Zealand in numbers, evidently rising from the depths which it inhabits in order to deposit its spawn.¹

The skeleton has been described in the Catalogue of Fishes, vol. ii. p. 345, and the annexed figure represents the abdominal surface of the pelvic bones with the rudimentary scale-like ventral fins, twice the natural size.

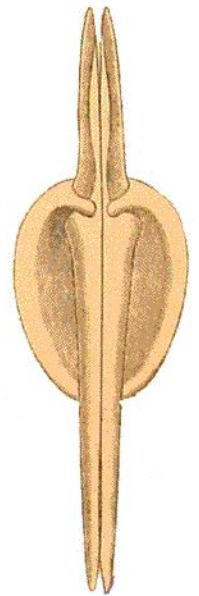


FIG. 2.—Pelvic bones of *Lepidopus caudatus*.

Lepidopus tenuis (Pl. VII. fig. B).

Lepidopus tenuis, Günth., Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1877, vol. xx. p. 437.

D. 126. A. 71.

This species is distinguished at the first glance by the extraordinary slenderness of the body, the depth of which is not much more than one-fourth of the length

¹ Zool. Anzeiger, 1883, p. 559.